

1 Lawrance A. Bohm (SBN: 208716)  
2 Andrew C. Kim (SBN: 309160)  
3 **BOHM LAW GROUP, INC.**  
4 4600 Northgate Boulevard, Suite 210  
5 Sacramento, California 95834  
6 Telephone: 916.927.5574  
7 Facsimile: 916.927.2046

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
9 SHUANG ZHANG

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SHUANG ZHANG,

Case No:

Plaintiff,

PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED COMPLAINT  
FOR DAMAGES:

v.  
WILLIAM PARFET, an individual; DOES 1  
through 10,

Defendant.

1. **SEXUAL HARASSMENT (Cal. Gov't  
Code § 12940(J))**
2. **SEX DISCRIMINATION (Cal. Gov't  
Code § 12940(A))**
3. **RETALIATION (Cal. Gov't Code §  
12940(H))**
4. **FAILURE TO PREVENT  
DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT,  
AND RETALIATION (Cal. Gov't Code  
§ 12940(K))**
5. **WRONGFUL TERMINATION IN  
VIOLATION OF PUBLIC POLICY**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff SHUANG ZHANG respectfully submits the instant Verified Complaint for  
Damages and Demand for Jury Trial and alleges as follows:

///

///

///

///

**OVERVIEW OF THE CASE**

“[T]he firetruck was coming and the siren was on.” This was how Defendant William Parfet, a pharmaceutical tycoon, joked about his Viagra-induced erection, as Plaintiff Shuang Zhang lied motionless after attempting to escape reality through sleeping pills and alcohol. Defendant Parfet took advantage of Plaintiff Zhang’s history of sexual abuse and depression and used her to satisfy his insatiable sexual needs for several years, which resulted in two children with Defendant Parfet. Defendant Parfet demanded sex under the threat that Plaintiff Zhang would suffer adverse consequences, including termination, if she did not give into his demands. Further, Defendant Parfet promised to help support their two (2) children in exchange for continued sexual relations. However, Defendant Parfet refused to publicly acknowledge their children and he also refused to provide any financial or emotional support. For example, when Plaintiff Zhang was hospitalized for depression and suicidal ideation, Defendant Parfet ignored her pleas for help by telling her she is a “strong woman.” Once Plaintiff Zhang summoned the strength to refuse any further sexual advances by Defendant Parfet, Plaintiff Zhang was terminated on September 5, 2014.

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff SHUANG ZHANG (hereinafter “ZHANG” or “Plaintiff”) was at all times relevant to this action, a recruit, employee, or wrongfully terminated employee of Defendant WILLIAM PARFET (hereinafter “PARFET” or “Defendant”).

2. PLAINTIFF became a U.S. Citizen in March 2010, and, at all times relevant to this action, she maintained her legal status in the United States. Prior to obtaining citizenship, PLAINTIFF had a Student Visa, an H1B Visa, and permanent residency status. She currently resides in the County of San Mateo, California.

3. Defendant PARFET was the Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer of MPI Research, Inc. (hereinafter “MPI”) at all times relevant to this action, and was an employer within the meaning of California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act, codified as California Government Code section 12926, subdivision (d). PARFET resides in Michigan, but regularly does business in California. PARFET agreed that he was PLAINTIFF’s legal employer for

1 purposes of employment claims, and PARFET further agreed that he will bear full financial  
 2 responsibility for any such claim if liability is found and damages are awarded. (A true and correct  
 3 copy of the Tolling and Financial Responsibility Agreement is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**).

4 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 4. Venue and jurisdiction are proper because a substantial part of the events giving  
 6 rise to this action took place in Santa Clara County; because DEFENDANT was doing business  
 7 in Santa Clara County; because PLAINTIFF's employment was entered into in Santa Clara  
 8 County; because PLAINTIFF worked for DEFENDANT in Santa Clara County; and because the  
 9 majority of witnesses reside in Santa Clara County.

10 5. The amount in controversy, without interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value  
 11 specified by 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

12 6. On March 17, 2015, PLAINTIFF filed a complaint with the Department of Fair  
 13 Employment and Housing, case number 508769-150764, and received a Right-to-Sue letter. (A  
 14 true and correct copy attached hereto as **Exhibit B**). Therefore, PLAINTIFF has exhausted her  
 15 administrative remedies.

16 7. The running of any statute of limitations period, statute of repose period, laches  
 17 period, or any other similar time period which could, if commenced or allowed to keep running,  
 18 operate to bar the assertion of any claims between PARFET and PLAINTIFF was suspended and  
 19 tolled as of March 10, 2016. (See Exhibit A). Neither party attempted to terminate the tolling  
 20 provisions.

21 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

22 8. At all times relevant to this action, PARFET was the Founder, Chief Executive  
 23 Officer and Chairman of MPI, the largest single-site preclinical/early clinical contract research  
 24 organization in the world. MPI has approximately 1,300 employees and annual revenues of  
 25 approximately 200 million U.S. dollars. PARFET was also an heir to the Upjohn Company, which  
 26 was one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the United States, and he was a board member  
 27 of three Fortune 500 Companies – Monsanto Company, Stryker Corporation, and Taubman  
 28 Center, Inc.

1       9. PLAINTIFF first came to the United States as a student in 1999, when she enrolled  
2 in the MBA program at the University of West Florida. After receiving her MBA in 2002, she  
3 moved to the Bay Area in Northern California to live with her future husband, and they married  
4 in 2004. PLAINTIFF has mostly worked in the Biotech and Pharmaceutical industry throughout  
5 her career and has consulted for numerous companies in the United States and China.

6       10. In or around January 2005, PARFET first met PLAINTIFF in China when  
7 PLAINTIFF organized a business trip to meet potential business partners on behalf of Bridge  
8 Pharmaceuticals. PARFET later confessed to PLAINTIFF that he was interested in her since the  
9 moment he saw PLAINTIFF in her traditional Chinese dress walking down the stairs at the White  
10 Swan Hotel in Guangzhou, China.

11       11. In or around June 2005, PLAINTIFF left Bridge Pharmaceuticals because of the  
12 company's internal turmoil.

13       12. In or around October 2005, PARFET visited China. As PARFET's independent  
14 consultant, PLAINTIFF spent months arranging various travel plans, including jets, yachts,  
15 special tours, and business meetings. After the trip, PARFET told PLAINTIFF that he considered  
16 her a friend and would act as her mentor.

17       13. In or around 2005, PLAINTIFF was intimidated by PARFET when they first met  
18 because of his authority, reputation and power.

19       14. Approximately between the years 2005 and 2007, PLAINTIFF worked as a  
20 consultant for PARFET on MPI's strategy to set up a joint venture in China. PLAINTIFF's job  
21 responsibilities as a consultant included, but were not limited to, the following: work with MPI  
22 to establish a MPI China subsidiary plan; develop China strategy and communicate with  
23 stakeholders in China for the best implementation of the strategy; conduct due diligence of the  
24 preclinical resources in China; gather Chinese market intelligence associated with preclinical  
25 studies; promote MPI's image and market its services in China; organize special events and visits  
26 between China and the United States; facilitate communication and follow up on discussions and  
27 contract negotiations with stakeholders in China; market contract preclinical services to  
28 international life sciences companies and develop new business opportunities on behalf of MPI.

1       15. In or around April 2006, PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to come to his hotel room  
 2 to talk about MPI's China strategy during the Biotechnology Industry Organization Conference  
 3 in Chicago. When PARFET noticed that PLAINTIFF was visibly nervous, he told her to relax.  
 4 PARFET told PLAINTIFF that he seldom invited people to his hotel room but he wanted to share  
 5 MPI's China strategy with her. PLAINTIFF was relieved to get through the meeting without any  
 6 issues.

7       16. In or around late April 2006, PARFET hired STEVE PORTER (hereinafter  
 8 "PORTER") to help with MPI's China strategy. Because PORTER had never been to China,  
 9 PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to teach PORTER the Chinese preclinical industry. PLAINTIFF and  
 10 PORTER went to China to meet with potential partners for MPI. During this trip, Plaintiff found  
 11 out that PORTER was using MPI resources to work on his other consulting clients. After she  
 12 reported this issue to PARFET, PLAINTIFF noticed that PORTER's attitude towards  
 13 PLAINTIFF changed. For example, PORTER would withhold information from PLAINTIFF,  
 14 which made it hard for her to do her job and PORTER also tried, and eventually hired, another  
 15 consultant to replace PLAINTIFF.

16       17. In or around July 2006, PLAINTIFF started seeing her psychiatrist, DR.  
 17 RICHARD CORELLI (hereinafter "DR. CORELLI"). This was the first time PLAINTIFF was  
 18 able to see a therapist about her history of sexual abuse, military training, and other traumas.

19       18. In or around February 2007, PLAINTIFF disclosed some of her traumatic  
 20 experiences and how they affected her in an email to PARFET. PLAINTIFF believed PARFET  
 21 was her mentor and trusted him to look out for her best interests.

22       19. On or about May 13, 2007, PLAINTIFF received an offer to join Zhongke  
 23 Laboratory Animal Co., Ltd. (hereinafter "ZHONGKE") in China. The main responsibility of this  
 24 position was to upgrade ZHONGKE's preclinical lab through partnering with U.S.  
 25 pharmaceutical companies.

26       20. In or around May 2007, PARFET instructed PLAINTIFF to take his daughter and  
 27 his friend's daughter to China. PARFET compensated PLAINTIFF for organizing the trip for the  
 28 girls.

1       21. In or around August 2007, PLAINTIFF started working for ZHONGKE as the  
 2 General Manager of its preclinical lab. When PARFET found out, he asked PLAINTIFF to  
 3 continue working for him as a consultant since MPI needed her help in China. PLAINTIFF agreed  
 4 to help.

5       22. In or around January 2008, PARFET met with PLAINTIFF at J.P. Morgan  
 6 Healthcare Conference. PLAINTIFF previously heard that MPI's joint venture in China was  
 7 running into problems, so she asked PARFET if he would consider partnering with ZHONGKE.  
 8 PARFET expressed interest and said he would visit ZHONGKE in China.

9       23. On or about February 26, 2008, PARFET and his MPI team went to China to visit  
 10 ZHONGKE for their potential collaboration. PARFET discussed business with PLAINTIFF over  
 11 dinner, and then PARFET invited PLAINTIFF to dance with him. Eventually, PARFET invited  
 12 PLAINTIFF to his hotel room in order to continue their discussion. However, once PARFET and  
 13 PLAINTIFF entered his room, PARFET unexpectedly started kissing PLAINTIFF. PARFET  
 14 took off PLAINTIFF's jacket, unzipped her dress, and stuck his tongue in her mouth. PLAINTIFF  
 15 did not reciprocate because she was overcome by shock, fear, and helplessness. PLAINTIFF was  
 16 repulsed because he was bald, overweight with a protruding belly, and 27 years her senior.  
 17 PARFET failed to get an erection and forced PLAINTIFF to perform oral sex on him.

18       24. On or about February 27, 2008, PARFET ordered PLAINTIFF to be discreet, and  
 19 to act as if nothing happened the previous night because he is a high-profile figure.

20       25. On or about February 27, 2008, after visiting ZHONGKE, PARFET asked  
 21 PLAINTIFF to go to Shanghai with him so that they could continue discussing MPI and  
 22 ZHONGKE's potential collaboration. PARFET and PLAINTIFF checked into different hotel  
 23 rooms in Shanghai, but PARFET went to PLAINTIFF's room and demanded sex. Once again,  
 24 PARFET failed to get an erection and spent all night struggling to penetrate PLAINTIFF.

25       26. On or about February 28, 2008, PARFET told PLAINTIFF that it would be  
 26 unlikely for MPI to collaborate with ZHONGKE.

27       ///

28       ///

1       27. In or around June 2008, PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to arrange business meetings  
 2 in China. However, PARFET told her that the main purpose of the trip was to see her. PARFET  
 3 requested that they get separate rooms to be discreet, but he spent every night in PLAINTIFF's  
 4 room. PARFET demanded sex multiple times every night. Because PARFET had trouble getting  
 5 an erection, he ordered PLAINTIFF to purchase Viagra for him.

6       28. PARFET became insatiable after he took Viagra. He wanted sex during the day  
 7 and also at night. PLAINTIFF could not sleep because PARFET would wake her up and demand  
 8 sex. PLAINTIFF attempted to resist PARFET's demands and also disclosed the fact that she was  
 9 extremely depressed. PARFET disregarded PLAINTIFF's pleas. PARFET told PLAINTIFF that  
 10 he did not believe in depression, and that it was a "weakness in character." Further, PARFET told  
 11 PLAINTIFF that she is a strong woman and that she can survive without antidepressants.

12       29. When PLAINTIFF was too depressed to even get out of bed, PARFET still  
 13 demanded sex. One night, PLAINTIFF combined sleeping pills and alcoholic beverages to make  
 14 herself unavailable for sex with PARFET. The next morning, PARFET complained about  
 15 PLAINTIFF lying next to him motionless after he took Viagra. PARFET joked that "the firetruck  
 16 was coming and the siren was on," indicating PARFET wanted to have sex with his Viagra-  
 17 induced erection. At one point during the trip, PARFET and PLAINTIFF watched a movie called  
 18 "The Black Book," in which a Jewish woman was forced to sleep with Nazi officers to survive.

19       30. In or around June 2008, shortly after PARFET's visit, PLAINTIFF's depression  
 20 was so debilitating that she had to fly back to the United States to seek help from a psychiatrist,  
 21 who prescribed antidepressants for PLAINTIFF.

22       31. In or around early July 2008, PLAINTIFF began to feel better after she resumed  
 23 taking antidepressants.

24       32. In or around early July 2008, PARFET offered PLAINTIFF a job at MPI's joint  
 25 venture, and also asked her to join him, his family, and his friends on a yacht trip to Canada in  
 26 order to discuss the job he offered to PLAINTIFF. PARFET's wife and daughter left soon after  
 27 PLAINTIFF arrived. PARFET took PLAINTIFF out on a dinghy, where he demanded sex, and  
 28 PLAINTIFF could not help but surrender to PARFET's demands.

1       33. On or about August 27, 2008, PARFET instructed PLAINTIFF to fly to MPI's  
 2 headquarters in Michigan to discuss MPI China strategy. He then asked her to accompany him to  
 3 a car show in Auburn, Indiana. PARFET went to PLAINTIFF's hotel room in Auburn and  
 4 demanded sex. Given the fact that PARFET was offering her a job, in addition to PLAINTIFF's  
 5 severe depression, she felt it was futile to resist PARFET's demands for sex.

6       34. On or about September 2, 2008, PLAINTIFF started working for MPI full-time  
 7 and was titled Vice President of Operational Liaison for MPI's joint venture in China.  
 8 PLAINTIFF's salary was to be \$85,000 per year. PARFET told PLAINTIFF that he sensed there  
 9 were problems with the MPI management team, which was led by the then Chief Operating  
 10 Officer and President BILL HARRISON (hereinafter "HARRISON"). PARFET stated that he  
 11 trusted PLAINTIFF and hired PLAINTIFF to be his representative. Although PARFET instructed  
 12 PLAINTIFF to report to HARRISON, PARFET would call PLAINTIFF and ask for updates on  
 13 MPI's joint venture in China. This arrangement created a conflict between PLAINTIFF and  
 14 HARRISON, who did not want to outsource jobs to China.

15       35. In or around September 2008, PARFET went to PLAINTIFF's hotel room during  
 16 her orientation at MPI and demanded sex.

17       36. In or around September 2008, PARFET took PLAINTIFF to the Gilmore Car  
 18 Museum, where he demanded sex but failed to get an erection. PARFET forced PLAINTIFF to  
 19 perform oral sex on him.

20       37. In or around early October 2008, PLAINTIFF found out she was pregnant.

21       38. On or about October 6, 2008, PLAINTIFF told PARFET that she was pregnant  
 22 with his child. PARFET told PLAINTIFF that they should discuss her pregnancy when they meet  
 23 in China.

24       39. On or about October 13, 2008, PARFET and PLAINTIFF stayed in Chengdu,  
 25 China. PARFET told PLAINTIFF that it was great that they were going to have a child together,  
 26 and also that he wanted to marry her. PLAINTIFF instantly refused to marry PARFET. At night,  
 27 PARFET went to PLAINTIFF's room and demanded sex. PLAINTIFF was worried about having  
 28 a miscarriage. PARFET ignored PLAINTIFF's concerns and had rough sex with her.

1       40. On or about October 14, 2008, PARFET changed his attitude about PLAINTIFF's  
 2 pregnancy and demanded that she get an abortion. PARFET threatened PLAINTIFF that she  
 3 would be left on her own if her husband found out the truth about the child. PARFET also accused  
 4 PLAINTIFF of being a gold-digger. PLAINTIFF wanted to keep the baby because she thought it  
 5 was a miracle that she was pregnant after years of believing she was infertile. PLAINTIFF decided  
 6 to keep the baby after she heard the baby's heart beat for the first time at the first ultrasound  
 7 check. PARFET was angry with PLAINTIFF's decision and continued to pressure her into getting  
 8 an abortion.

9       41. In or around November 2008, PARFET called PLAINTIFF telling her that he  
 10 would support PLAINTIFF's decision to keep the child. PARFET also requested to see his child  
 11 in the future.

12       42. In or around March 2009, PLAINTIFF returned to the United States during her  
 13 third trimester. PLAINTIFF requested maternity leave from MPI prior to her return, but was  
 14 denied. Instead, MPI changed PLAINTIFF's full-time position into a part-time job.

15       43. On May 5, 2009, PLAINTIFF gave birth to her first son.

16       44. In or around late August 2009, MPI terminated PLAINTIFF without prior notice.  
 17 Consequently, PLAINTIFF lost her medical insurance coverage while taking care of her infant  
 18 son.

19       45. On or about September 2, 2009, PLAINTIFF and MPI executed a severance  
 20 agreement and MPI provided \$12,310.40 for PLAINTIFF's severance pay.

21       46. On or about September 3, 2009, PARFET's Assistant emailed PLAINTIFF stating,  
 22 "[PARFET] apologizes for [HARRISON]'s unprofessional moves. While he knows they were  
 23 not intentional towards [PLAINTIFF], bad decisions happened and he is disappointed by them."

24       47. In or around October 2009, PARFET asked MPI to contact PLAINTIFF to have  
 25 her negotiate the dissolution of MPI's joint venture in China. MPI paid PLAINTIFF on an hourly  
 26 basis.

27       ///

28       ///

1       48. In or around March 2009, Chief Executive Officer of ZuvaChem asked  
 2 PLAINTIFF to help him connect with PARFET. Subsequently, PLAINTIFF continued to work  
 3 as a business consultant for ZuvaChem in which her main responsibility at ZuvaChem was to  
 4 recruit new investors.

5       49. In or around June 2010, PLAINTIFF had a paternity test done for her son, and the  
 6 test results excluded her husband as the biological father.

7       50. In or around April 2011, PARFET expressed interest in ZuvaChem and agreed to  
 8 serve as an advisor.

9       51. On or about April 26, 2011, Chief Executive Officer of ZuvaChem and  
 10 PLAINTIFF visited PARFET to discuss ZuvaChem. When PARFET and PLAINTIFF were  
 11 alone, PARFET showed PLAINTIFF pictures of their son. PARFET then indicated that he knew  
 12 he was the biological father of the child.

13       52. On or about April 27, 2011, PARFET told PLAINTIFF he wanted to continue  
 14 discussing ZuvaChem and told her to meet him in Detroit, where he was going to have a meeting  
 15 later that day. PARFET went to PLAINTIFF's hotel room and demanded sex. He failed to get an  
 16 erection and forced PLAINTIFF to perform oral sex on him.

17       53. On or about June 21, 2011, during his visit out to the Bay Area, PARFET told  
 18 PLAINTIFF to make a reservation at a hotel near Sonoma County Airport. After they checked in,  
 19 PARFET demanded sex from PLAINTIFF.

20       54. In or around late July 2011, PLAINTIFF told PARFET that the child was his son.

21       55. In or around early August 2011, PARFET flew to China to meet with a ZuvaChem  
 22 board member and other potential investors. During this trip, PARFET met with PLAINTIFF and  
 23 their son. Upon seeing the child, PARFET admitted that he did not need a paternity test to confirm  
 24 that the child was his son. At the hotel in Qingdao, PARFET demanded sex in his room.

25       56. The day before he departed, PARFET promised PLAINTIFF that he would take  
 26 care of her and their child. PLAINTIFF shared her history of sexual abuse, military training, and  
 27 clinical depression. After hearing PLAINTIFF's history, PARFET told her that he empathized  
 28 with her pain because of his own family issues. PARFET also suggested that they should "just be

BOHM LAW GROUP, INC.  
 4600 NORTHGATE BOULEVARD, SUITE 210  
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95834

1 friends." Further, he offered her a job at MPI but PLAINTIFF declined because she suspected  
 2 PARFET would continue to demand sex from her. PARFET also instructed PLAINTIFF to tell  
 3 others, including her husband, that she conceived the child through a sperm bank.

4 57. On or about September 20, 2011, PARFET indicated to PLAINTIFF that he could  
 5 be an investor for ZuvaChem and that he wanted to meet with the ZuvaChem team in Baltimore.  
 6 PARFET later called PLAINTIFF to tell her that he wanted her to accompany him to his hunting  
 7 lodge after the team meeting because he wanted to talk more about ZuvaChem.

8 58. On or about September 23, 2011, PARFET met with the ZuvaChem team in  
 9 Baltimore and later became a board member.

10 59. On or about September 24, 2011, PARFET and PLAINTIFF went to PARFET's  
 11 hunting lodge. PARFET took PLAINTIFF to his room and demanded sex; however, PARFET  
 12 failed to get an erection. The next morning, PARFET snuck into PLAINTIFF's room and  
 13 managed to have penetration with her. Afterwards, PARFET stated that it must be "fate" if  
 14 PLAINTIFF were to get pregnant again.

15 60. On or about October 21, 2011, PLAINTIFF learned that she was pregnant again.

16 61. In or around November 2011, PLAINTIFF told PARFET that she was pregnant  
 17 again and also that it was highly likely his child.

18 62. Approximately between October 2011 and June 2012, PLAINTIFF suffered from  
 19 stress and complications caused by her pregnancy. PLAINTIFF developed Hyperemesis  
 20 Gravidarum, a condition characterized by severe nausea, vomiting and electrolyte disturbance.  
 21 PLAINTIFF was prescribed Zofran, which was commonly used to prevent nausea and vomiting  
 22 for chemotherapy patients. She also received fluid and nutrition through an intravenous line at the  
 23 Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

24 63. In or around late 2011, PLAINTIFF sought help from a licensed therapist in order  
 25 to address her depression and PARFET's unwanted sexual advances.

26 64. In or around spring 2012, PARFET stopped by PLAINTIFF's house in the Bay  
 27 Area. This was the second and also the last time PARFET saw their first son.

28 ///

1       65. On or about April 13, 2012, PARFET notified ZuvaChem that he was not going to  
 2 invest in ZuvaChem.

3       66. On June 7, 2012, PLAINTIFF gave birth to her second son.

4       67. In or around September 2012, PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to find Chinese  
 5 investors for one of his pharmaceutical companies, Metabolic Solutions.

6       68. In or around October 2012, PLAINTIFF signed up for a free neuroscience study  
 7 on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (hereinafter “PTSD”) by Stanford University. This was the  
 8 first time PLAINTIFF received targeted treatment for PTSD.

9       69. On or about November 12, 2012, PLAINTIFF helped PARFET organize a  
 10 business networking event at PARFET’s hunting lodge. During her stay, PLAINTIFF asked  
 11 PARFET to provide support for their children. PLAINTIFF also shared with PARFET that she is  
 12 suffering from PTSD, along with her history of sexual abuse and clinical depression. When  
 13 PLAINTIFF asked PARFET to help her pay for her psychiatric treatments, PARFET told  
 14 PLAINTIFF that she was a “strong woman” and refused to help.

15       70. On or about January 25, 2013, PLAINTIFF told her husband that he was not the  
 16 father of the two children and that the children were conceived through a sperm bank. When  
 17 PARFET heard what PLAINTIFF told her husband, he insisted that PLAINTIFF continue using  
 18 to the sperm bank story.

19       71. In or around February 2013, PLAINTIFF went to the emergency room at the El  
 20 Camino Hospital in Mountain View due to the worsening symptoms of PLAINTIFF’s depression  
 21 and PTSD.

22       72. On or about March 4, 2013, PLAINTIFF was hospitalized at the El Camino  
 23 Hospital’s psychiatric ward.

24       73. On or about March 8, 2013, the El Camino Hospital released PLAINTIFF to the  
 25 partial hospitalization program for acute mental conditions. Unfortunately, PLAINTIFF’s mental  
 26 condition did not improve because she was too embarrassed to talk about her unwanted  
 27 relationship with PARFET and their two children during the group sessions. PLAINTIFF begged  
 28 for PARFET’s help when he came to visit during her partial hospitalization. PARFET told her

BOHM LAW GROUP, INC.  
 4600 NORTHGATE BOULEVARD, SUITE 210  
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95834

1 that she could survive because she is a “strong woman.”

2 74. On or about March 18, 2013, PLAINTIFF returned to her former psychiatrist, but  
3 her depression continued.

4 75. In or around late March 2013, PARFET called PLAINTIFF to ask her to  
5 accompany him to China because Stryker Corporation acquired Trauson, an orthopedic company  
6 in China.

7 76. On or about March 21, 2013, PLAINTIFF was hospitalized at the Good Samaritan  
8 Hospital in Saratoga due to the worsening symptoms of depression. PLAINTIFF was forced to  
9 lie and told the Hospital that her children were conceived through a sperm bank. Consequently,  
10 PLAINTIFF was unable to seek help for her underlying problems with PARFET. The hospital’s  
11 psychiatrist diagnosed her with bipolar disorder.

12 77. On or about April 4, 2013, PLAINTIFF was released from Good Samaritan  
13 Hospital.

14 78. In or around May 2013, PLAINTIFF was suffering from depression and suicidal  
15 thoughts. PLAINTIFF attempted to end her life on railway tracks and she also tried to jump off  
16 of a building. However, PLAINTIFF’s sister followed her everywhere and prevented PLAINTIFF  
17 from committing suicide.

18 79. On or about May 8, 2013, PLAINTIFF returned to China at her parents’ insistence.  
19 PLAINTIFF’s parents believed that a change of environment would help her depression.

20 80. On or about May 27, 2013, the Chairman of Cenova Ventures contacted  
21 PLAINTIFF to ask her if she could connect him with Stryker Corporation, where PARFET served  
22 as the chairman.

23 81. In or around July 2013, PLAINTIFF started to recover from her depression after  
24 receiving psychiatric treatment.

25 82. In or around July 2013, PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to meet him in China to  
26 discuss how he could help PLAINTIFF and her career.

27 83. In or around August 2013, PLAINTIFF began visiting a psychiatrist in the Bay  
28 Area.

1       84. In or around September 2013, PARFET suggested that PLAINTIFF take a job with  
 2 MPI. Executive Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing, ED AMAT (hereinafter  
 3 "AMAT"), contacted PLAINTIFF regarding PARFET's job offer with MPI.

4       85. On or about October 11, 2013, PARFET and PLAINTIFF met in China for  
 5 business meetings. During the five-hour train ride from Beijing to Shanghai, PARFET and  
 6 PLAINTIFF discussed their personal issues. PLAINTIFF told PARFET about her suicidal  
 7 attempts, depression, PTSD, history of sexual abuse, and the stress of keeping secrets about their  
 8 relationship and children. PARFET claimed to empathize with PLAINTIFF's suffering, and  
 9 assured PLAINTIFF that she did not have to worry about anything anymore. Further, PARFET  
 10 stated that many women in his family suffered from depression and disclosed private information  
 11 about a family member. PARFET's behavior, however, did not change. When they arrived in  
 12 Shanghai, PARFET went to PLAINTIFF's room and demanded sex again.

13       86. On or about October 12, 2013, after the meeting with Cenova Ventures, PARFET  
 14 told PLAINTIFF that it would be unlikely that Stryker Corporation would invest in Cenova  
 15 Ventures. PARFET again spent the night in PLAINTIFF's room, demanding sex throughout the  
 16 night.

17       87. On or about October 13, 2013, PARFET spent most of the day in the hotel room  
 18 with PLAINTIFF, demanding sex throughout the day.

19       88. On or about October 14, 2013, PLAINTIFF asked PARFET to provide support for  
 20 their children and her medical bills. PARFET offered \$35,000 for each child. PARFET also told  
 21 her that she should use her husband's insurance for psychiatric treatment despite the fact that they  
 22 previously discussed how difficult it was for PLAINTIFF to find competent psychiatric help  
 23 within her insurance network. When PLAINTIFF started crying out of frustration, PARFET kept  
 24 asking her, "Why are you upset?" PARFET left PLAINTIFF alone at the bar. Later that evening,  
 25 PARFET followed PLAINTIFF to her room after dinner and told her that she cannot upset him if  
 26 she wanted help from him. PARFET demanded sex multiple times that night, but failed to get an  
 27 erection. PARFET then blamed PLAINTIFF for his impotency.

28       ///

1       89. In or around October 2013, MPI's Executive Vice President AMAT contacted  
 2 PLAINTIFF regarding PARFET's job offer, and told her that it was for a sales position. AMAT  
 3 set unrealistic goals for PLAINTIFF, who did not receive adequate training. PLAINTIFF called  
 4 PARFET and told him that she was not qualified for the sales position. In response, PARFET told  
 5 PLAINTIFF not to worry, and that the position was like a "goodwill ambassador." PARFET also  
 6 told PLAINTIFF that the job would give him an excuse to see her in the Bay Area.

7       90. In or around December 2013, PLAINTIFF signed the offer letter from MPI and  
 8 started working on sales for MPI from the Bay Area. The position had an annual salary of \$80,000.

9       91. In or around early February 2014, PLAINTIFF asked PARFET for help because  
 10 she started experiencing symptoms of depression due to the pressure and stress from her new sales  
 11 position. She felt inadequate. PLAINTIFF requested a transfer to a position that matched her skills  
 12 and experience, such as finding Chinese investors and partners. PARFET told her that he needed  
 13 to be discreet and therefore, she needed to work it out with AMAT.

14       92. On or around February 10, 2014, PARFET visited the Bay Area and requested  
 15 PLAINTIFF to join him at his hotel in San Jose. PARFET called Plaintiff "mommy" and asked  
 16 about their "two wonderful kids" before demanding sex. PLAINTIFF complied because PARFET  
 17 told her that her job depended on her being "nice" to him. After PLAINTIFF complied with  
 18 PARFET's sex demands, AMAT's scrutiny over PLAINTIFF's work noticeably decreased.

19       93. On or about March 23, 2014, PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to attend a  
 20 pharmaceutical conference in Phoenix, Arizona. At the reception, PARFET told PLAINTIFF that  
 21 AMAT did not believe she was worthy of her salary. Later, PARFET asked PLAINTIFF to get a  
 22 room at the same hotel where he was staying with his wife during the conference. However, there  
 23 were no rooms available. PARFET then drove PLAINTIFF to a different hotel, where he  
 24 demanded sex. PARFET called PLAINTIFF "mommy" and asked about their "two wonderful  
 25 kids."

26       94. In or around early June 2014, PLAINTIFF filed for child support from PARFET.

27       ///

28       ///

1       95.     On or about June 5, 2014, PARFET came to San Francisco for a board meeting  
2 and he asked PLAINTIFF to get a hotel room. Instead of complying with his request, PLAINTIFF  
3 met with PARFET for dinner only to serve him with the family lawsuit for child support. PARFET  
4 attempted to get PLAINTIFF drunk by pressuring her to drink.

5       96. On or about July 9, 2014, PLAINTIFF flew to Denver, Colorado to meet with  
6 PARFET at his request. PARFET said he wanted to resolve the issues without getting lawyers  
7 involved. PARFET attempted to get PLAINTIFF drunk and made sexual advances at her by trying  
8 to get into her hotel room. However, PLAINTIFF refused. The next morning, PARFET and  
9 PLAINTIFF discussed child support. PARFET offered PLAINTIFF another job with MPI, with  
10 better pay and better benefits. PARFET also promised a position that would match her skills and  
11 experience. However, PLAINTIFF declined.

12       97.     In or around August 2014, multiple times PARFET tried to talk PLAINTIFF into  
13 accepting another offer at MPI but PLAINTIFF declined each time. PLAINTIFF noticed that  
14 AMAT started to check on her sales more aggressively.

15           98.    On or about September 5, 2014, AMAT terminated PLAINTIFF from her sales  
16 position.

17           99.     On or about October 14, 2014, PARFET indicated that he wanted a paternity test  
18 for the two (2) children.

19       100. On or about February 13, 2015, the paternity test confirmed PARFET as the  
20 biological father of both children.

21 101. On or about February 24, 2015, PARFET refused to pay child support even though  
22 a DNA test confirmed that he was the biological father of both children.

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## **(Sexual Harassment; Cal. Gov't Code § 12940(j))**

25 102. The allegations set forth in this complaint are hereby re-alleged and incorporated  
26 by reference.

27 | //

28 | //

1       103. At all times relevant to this matter, the Fair Employment and Housing Act and  
 2 California Government Code section 12940 were in full force and effect and binding on  
 3 Defendants. California Government Code section 12940, subdivision (j) reads, “It is an unlawful  
 4 employment practice...[f]or an employer, labor organization, employment agency,  
 5 apprenticeship training program or any training program leading to employment, or any other  
 6 person, because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability,  
 7 mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender  
 8 identity, gender expression, age, or sexual orientation, to harass an employee, an applicant, or a  
 9 person providing services pursuant to a contract.”

10       104. Defendant was Plaintiff’s employer within the meaning of California Government  
 11 Code section 12926, subdivision (d) and, as such, barred from illegal harassment as set forth in  
 12 California Government Code section 12940, subdivision (j).

13       105. Plaintiff was subjected to sexual harassment including, but not limited to,  
 14 unwanted sexual intercourse, and unwanted sexual advances. These deplorable acts were  
 15 persistent throughout Plaintiff’s employment with Defendant. These harassing acts were  
 16 conducted by Defendant, who created an environment that, among other things, tolerated and  
 17 encouraged harassment and discrimination against Plaintiff that impacted the terms and  
 18 conditions of Plaintiff’s employment. The conduct on the part of Defendant represents a violation  
 19 of California Government Code section 12940, subdivision (j) and Title 2 of the California Code  
 20 of Regulations sections 11019 and 11020.

21       106. A reasonable person in Plaintiff’s circumstances would have considered  
 22 Defendant’s conduct and the work environment to be hostile and abusive. The harassment was  
 23 severe and/or pervasive.

24       107. Plaintiff considered Defendant’s conduct and work environment to be hostile or  
 25 abusive.

26       108. Defendant knew or should have known of the harassing conduct and failed to take  
 27 immediate and appropriate corrective action.

28       ///

1 109. The conduct of Defendant was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

2 110. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff has  
3 been damaged in an amount according to proof, but in an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of  
4 this Court. Plaintiff also seeks "affirmative relief" or "prospective relief" as defined by California  
5 Government Code section 12926, subdivision (a), including back pay, reimbursement of out of  
6 pocket expenses and any such other relief that this Court deems proper.

7 111. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant's willful and intentional  
8 discrimination, Plaintiff has lost wages, benefits, and other out of pocket expenses.

9 112. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned acts of Defendant,  
10 Plaintiff became mentally upset, stressed, aggravated, depressed, and suicidal. Plaintiff has  
11 experienced stress, migraines, anxiety, humiliation, embarrassment, sleeplessness, fear and  
12 emotional distress. Plaintiff claims general damages for mental distress in an amount according  
13 to proof at time of trial.

14 113. The above described actions were done with malice, fraud, oppression and in  
15 reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Further, said actions were despicable in character and  
16 warrant the imposition of punitive damages in a sum sufficient to punish and deter Defendant's  
17 future conduct.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **(Sex Discrimination; Cal. Gov't Code § 12940(a))**

20 114. The allegations set forth in paragraphs above are hereby re-alleged and  
21 incorporated by reference.

22 115. At all times relevant to this matter, the Fair Employment and Housing Act and  
23 California Government Code section 12940 were in full force and effect and binding on  
24 Defendants.

25 116. As set forth above, Defendant unlawfully discriminated against Plaintiff because  
26 of her sex and/or gender, by subjecting her to constant demeaning treatment, unwelcome and  
27 inappropriate sexual advances, and illicit remarks, in addition to subjecting Plaintiff to a  
28 harassment-drenched environment. Defendant condoned an environment that, among other

1 things, tolerated and encouraged discrimination based on sex and/or gender and materially and  
 2 negatively impacted the terms and conditions of Plaintiff's employment. Defendant's conduct  
 3 complained of herein violated California Government Codes section 12940, subdivision (a) and  
 4 Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations sections 11019 and 11020.

5 117. Plaintiff's sex and/or gender was a substantial motivating reason for the  
 6 termination, denial of the opportunity to apply to a different position, denial of leave, denial of a  
 7 reasonable accommodation, and cancelled benefits.

8 118. Plaintiff's termination, denial of the opportunity to apply to a different position,  
 9 denial of leave, denial of a reasonable accommodation, and cancelled benefits were a substantial  
 10 factor in causing her harm.

11 119. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff has  
 12 been damaged in an amount according to proof, but in an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of  
 13 this Court. Plaintiff also seeks "affirmative relief" or "prospective relief" as defined by California  
 14 Government Code section 12926, subdivision (a), including back pay, reimbursement of out of  
 15 pocket expenses and any such other relief that this Court deems proper.

16 120. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant's willful and intentional  
 17 discrimination, Plaintiff has lost wages, benefits, and other out of pocket expenses.

18 121. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned acts of Defendant,  
 19 Plaintiff became mentally upset, stressed, aggravated, depressed, and suicidal. Plaintiff has  
 20 experienced stress, migraines, anxiety, humiliation, embarrassment, sleeplessness, fear and  
 21 emotional distress. Plaintiff claims general damages for mental distress in an amount according  
 22 to proof at time of trial.

23 122. The above described actions were done with malice, fraud, oppression and in  
 24 reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Further, said actions were despicable in character and  
 25 warrant the imposition of punitive damages in a sum sufficient to punish and deter Defendant's  
 26 future conduct.

27 ///

28 ///

### **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

**(Retaliation; Cal. Gov't Code § 12940(h))**

3           123. The allegations set forth in this complaint are hereby re-alleged and incorporated  
4 by reference.

5       124. At all times relevant to this action, it was unlawful under California Government  
6 Code section 12940, subdivision (h) and Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations section  
7 11021 for employers to retaliate against Plaintiff for complaining about illegal practices.  
8 Defendant violated California Government Code section 12940, subdivision (h) and Title 2 of the  
9 California Code of Regulations section 11021 by retaliating against Plaintiff for communicating  
10 to Defendant that his sexual advances were unwelcome by, among other things, terminating her,  
11 denying her opportunity to apply to a different position, denying her leave, denying her a  
12 reasonable accommodation, and cancelling her benefits.

13       125. Plaintiff's rejection of Defendant's unwelcome sexual advances were a substantial  
14 motivating reason for Plaintiff's termination, denial of the opportunity to apply to a different  
15 position, denial of leave, denial of a reasonable accommodation, and cancelled benefits.

126. Defendant's conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

17       127. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant's willful and intentional  
18 discrimination, Plaintiff has lost wages, benefits, and other out of pocket expenses.

19       128. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned acts of Defendant,  
20 Plaintiff became mentally upset, stressed, aggravated, depressed, and suicidal. Plaintiff has  
21 experienced stress, migraines, anxiety, humiliation, embarrassment, sleeplessness, fear and  
22 emotional distress. Plaintiff claims general damages for mental distress in an amount according  
23 to proof at time of trial.

24       129. The above described actions were done with malice, fraud, oppression and in  
25 reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Further, said actions were despicable in character and  
26 warrant the imposition of punitive damages in a sum sufficient to punish and deter Defendant's  
27 future conduct

28 | //

## **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**(Failure to Prevent Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation;  
Cal. Gov't Code § 12940(k))**

130. The allegations set forth in paragraphs above are hereby re-alleged and incorporated by reference.

131. Defendant had a duty to prevent unlawful harassment and discrimination, including retaliation. Defendant knew or should have known about the harassment and discrimination based on sex and/or gender as set forth above. Defendant failed to implement adequate training, policies, or instructions that would have prevented the aforementioned harassment, discrimination and retaliation of Plaintiff. Defendant breached their duty to prevent the harassment, discrimination and retaliation of Plaintiff. Accordingly, Defendant violated California Government Code section 12940, subdivision (k), Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations section 11019, subdivision (b)(3), and 29 Code of Federal Regulations section 1604.11, subdivision (f).

132. Defendant failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent the harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

133. Defendant's failure to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment, discrimination and retaliation was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

134. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount according to proof, but in an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of this Court. Plaintiff also seeks “affirmative relief” or “prospective relief” as defined by California Government Code section 12926, subdivision (a), including back pay, reimbursement of out of pocket expenses and any such other relief that this Court deems proper.

135. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant's willful and intentional discrimination, Plaintiff has lost wages, benefits, and other out of pocket expenses.

136. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned acts of Defendant, Plaintiff became mentally upset, stressed, aggravated, depressed, and suicidal. Plaintiff has experienced stress, migraines, anxiety, humiliation, embarrassment, sleeplessness, fear and

1 emotional distress. Plaintiff claims general damages for mental distress in an amount according  
2 to proof at time of trial.

3       137. The above described actions were done with malice, fraud, oppression and in  
4 reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Further, said actions were despicable in character and  
5 warrant the imposition of punitive damages in a sum sufficient to punish and deter Defendant's  
6 future conduct.

## **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

## **(Wrongful Termination in Violation of Public Policy)**

9           138. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though  
10 fully set forth herein.

11       139. Plaintiff was subjected to working conditions that violated public policy. After  
12 Plaintiff communicated to Defendant that his sexual advances were unwelcome, Defendant  
13 retaliated by subjecting her to working conditions that violated public policy. Defendant  
14 terminated Plaintiff, denied her opportunity to apply to a different position, denied her leave,  
15 denied reasonable accommodations, and cancelled her benefits.

16        140. Defendant's conduct violated important public policy including but not limited to  
17 the laws codified in California Government Code section 12940, subdivisions (a), (h), (j), and (k),  
18 Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations sections 11019, 11020 and 11021, and 29 Code of  
19 Federal Regulations section 1604.11, subdivision (f).

20       141. Defendant intentionally created and/or knowingly permitted working conditions  
21 that were so intolerable that a reasonable person in Plaintiff's position would have considered  
22 Defendant's conduct and the work environment to be hostile and abusive. The harassment was  
23 severe and/or pervasive.

24 142. Plaintiff considered Defendant's conduct and work environment to be hostile or  
25 abusive.

26       143. The intolerable working conditions that Plaintiff endured were a substantial factor  
27 in causing Plaintiff's harm.

28 | //

1       144. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned violations, Plaintiff has  
2 been damaged in an amount according to proof, but in an amount in excess of the jurisdiction of  
3 this Court.

4       145. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant's willful and intentional  
5 discrimination, Plaintiff has lost wages, benefits, and other out of pocket expenses.

6       146. As an actual and proximate result of the aforementioned acts of Defendant,  
7 Plaintiff became mentally upset, stressed, aggravated, depressed, and suicidal. Plaintiff has  
8 experienced stress, migraines, anxiety, humiliation, embarrassment, sleeplessness, fear and  
9 emotional distress. Plaintiff claims general damages for mental distress in an amount according  
10 to proof at time of trial.

11       147. The above described actions were done with malice, fraud, oppression and in  
12 reckless disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Further, said actions were despicable in character and  
13 warrant the imposition of punitive damages in a sum sufficient to punish and deter Defendant's  
14 future conduct.

15       ///

16       ///

17       ///

18       ///

19       ///

20       ///

21       ///

22       ///

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendant and any other Defendants who may be later added to this action as follows:

1. For compensatory damages, including, but not limited to lost wages and emotional distress in an amount according to proof;
  2. For attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to all applicable statutes or legal principles;
  3. For costs of suit incurred;
  4. For punitive damages pursuant to all applicable statutes or legal principles;
  5. For prejudgment interest on all amounts claimed pursuant to California Civil Code section(s) 3287 and/or 3288;
  6. For injunctive relief preventing further discrimination and retaliation and as otherwise deemed appropriate;
  7. For such other and further relief as the court may deem proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: August 1, 2016

By: /s/ Andrew C. Kim

LAWRANCE A. BOHM, ESQ.  
ANDREW C. KIM, ESQ.

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
**SHUANG ZHANG**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff SHUANG ZHANG hereby demands trial by jury for this matter.

Dated: August 1, 2016

By: /s/ Andrew C. Kim

LAWRANCE A. BOHM, ESQ.  
ANDREW C. KIM, ESQ.

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
**SHUANG ZHANG**

## **VERIFICATION OF COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

I, SHUANG ZHANG, have read the attached Complaint for Damages and hereby attest that the same is true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters, which are therein stated on my information or belief, and as to those matter that I believe it to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

This Verification was executed on August 1, 2016, in Sacramento, California.

SHUANG ZHANG